

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TEL AV 04034 071239Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSM-03 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01  
CIAE-00 COME-00 EPG-02 DODE-00 EB-07 FEAE-00  
FPC-01 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05  
OMB-01 PM-04 USIA-06 OES-07 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04  
TRSE-00 ACDA-07 /102 W  
-----071250Z 097032 /53

R 071203Z JUN 77  
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6540  
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 4034

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: ENRG, IS  
SUBJECT: OIL EXPLORATION IN ISRAEL AND THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

REF: TEL AVIV 3991

1. BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE. EMBOFF DISCUSSED OIL  
EXPLORATION PROGRAM WITH ISRAEL NATIONAL OIL COMPANY  
(INOC) ASSISTANT MANAGING DIRECTOR FISHER ON JUNE 6.

2. ISRAEL. DRILLING AT THE HELETZ SITE HAS NOW REACHED  
ABOUT 2,000 METERS. THERE WERE A FEW OIL SHOWS AT  
SHALLOW LEVELS, AND LAPIDOT WILL PRESUMABLY CHECK THEM  
OUT SOMETIME IN THE FUTURE. GEOLOGICAL OBSTACLES HAVE NOT  
CAUSED DIFFICULTIES SO FAR. DRILLING AT DVORA HAS  
REACHED 2,200 METERS OF THE PLANNED 4,000 METERS.  
ALTHOUGH THERE HAVE BEEN SOME OIL SHOWS, NO GAS HAS  
BEEN DISCOVERED. NONETHELESS, THESE FINDINGS ARE  
CONSIDERED "ENCOURAGING." ASHDOD 4 HAS TURNED OUT TO  
BE DRY. A NEW DRILLING SITE NORTH OF ASHDOD 2 WILL SOON BE  
SELECTED. AS A RESULT OF PREVIOUS DRILLING IN THE  
ASHDOD AREA, INOC NOW FEELS THAT ANY OIL POOL THAT IS DISCOVERED  
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WILL BE SMALLER THAN ORIGINALLY BELIEVED.

3. SINAI. DRILLING HAS BEGUN IN THE SADOT AREA (JUST  
WEST OF THE GAZA STRIP), AND HAS REACHED 1,000 METERS.  
THE SECOND OF THREE SHALLOW ONSHORE DRILLINGS AT AT-TUR  
HAS JUST BEEN COMPLETED. NO COMMERCIALY EXPLOITABLE  
FINDINGS HAVE BEEN DISCOVERED. THE THIRD SHALLOW ONSHORE

DRILLING WILL BEGIN NEXT WEEK.

4. THE OFFSHORE DRILLING (ZIV) IN THE MEDITERRANEAN HAS REACHED 2,200 METERS, AND RESULTS ARE NOT ENCOURAGING. FISHER STATED THAT WITHIN SEVERAL DAYS THE GOI WILL ISSUE AN OFFICIAL STATEMENT ANNOUNCING THAT TESTS OF THE FINDINGS AT THE OFFSHORE DRILLING (SABRA) IN THE GULF OF SUEZ INDICATE THAT THE SITE DOES NOT HAVE COMMERCIALY EXTRACTABLE QUANTITIES OF OIL. NONETHELESS, THE RESULTS JUSTIFIED FURTHER DRILLINGS. END LIMITED OFFICIAL USE.

5. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL. COMMENT: THE FORTHCOMING CHANGE OF GOVERNMENT IN ISRAEL HAS LET TO IMMOBILISM IN THE TOP GOI POLITICAL ECHELON RESPONSIBLE FOR PETROLEUM AFFAIRS. FOR EXAMPLE, FISHER STATED THAT INOC HAS SO FAR BEEN UNABLE TO GET A DECISION ON WHETHER TO LEASE THE DRILLSHIP IN THE MEDITERRANEAN FOR ANOTHER YEAR. SIGNIFICANT DECISIONS ON EXPENDITURE AND POLICY ARE NOW BEING HELD FOR THE INCOMING LIKUD GOVERNMENT. END CONFIDENTIAL.  
LEWIS

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PETROLEUM, EXPLORATORY DRILLING, MILITARY OCCUPIED AREAS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977TELAV04034  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
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**Executive Order:** GS  
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**Expiration:**  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Reference:** 77 TEL AVIV 3991  
**Retention:** 0  
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**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2241791  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** OIL EXPLORATION IN ISRAEL AND THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES  
**TAGS:** ENRG, IS  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/d91b3a83-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
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